PRESENT—*cont.*

Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur, Nattam Dubash Kadir Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tulasiram, Mr. L. K.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, K.
Vanavudaiya Goundar, Mr. S. V.
Venkatapathi Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarama Sastri, C.I.E., Mr. T. R.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Zamindar of Gollapalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
Zamindar of Seithur.

I

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new Members were sworn in :—

Mr. A. M. C. Tampoe, I.C.S.

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15.

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The President will call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Medical

Steps to remove the difficulties of nurses working in Government hospitals.

*658 Q.—Mr. J. A. Davis: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove the difficulties under which nurses are working in Government hospitals, particularly, in Madras—

(*a*) as to the hours they are required to work both day and night;
(*b*) as to the dieting arrangements; and
(*c*) as to nurses who are sick being deprived of their salary and at the same time required to pay the hospital charges?

A.—(*a*) The hours of duty of nurses in the General Hospital, Madras, are as shown below :—

Day nurses.—Eight-and-a-quarter hours a day between 6-30 a.m. and 6 p.m., deducting intervals for meals and two hours off-duty.

19th October 1927]

Night nurses.—Eleven-and-a-quarter hours per day between 5–45 p.m. and 6–30 a.m., with intervals for rest and meals.

Nurses are also allowed off-duty time as follows :—

Pupil nurses—one full day and two half days per month.

Staff nurses—one full day per month and one half day per week.

The time-table in the other hospitals has been so drawn up by the Superintendents concerned in consultation with the matron, as to suit the work of the respective hospitals and to correspond more or less with the hours of duty and privileges of the nurses in the General Hospital.

(*b*) The dieting arrangements for nurses are, in most hospitals, in the hands of a paid house-keeper who works under the direct orders of the Matron Superintendent of the hospital.

(*c*) Nurses are not ordinarily deprived of their salary when sick in the hospital; they are given the leave due to them as in the case of other Government servants. They are further allowed to draw ration allowance when on leave on average pay. Hospital charges are recovered from the pay of nurses drawing more than Rs. 50 a month as in the case of other Government servants.

The Government have not received any complaints in regard to the matters referred to above.

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—" May I know why the nurses are made to work for longer hours in the night than in the day ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" I do not know, Sir. But that has been the practice for many years. I suppose that one of the reasons for it is that it is difficult to arrange for service during night."

Provision for latrines in the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Triplicane.

* 659 Q.—Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that no provision has been made in the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Triplicane, for latrines and urinals for the use of medical students or out-patients ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Indian pupil midwives are housed in the quarters, 8 ft. by 7 ft., which were built for and occupied by totis in the said hospital, and whether it is made to serve as kitchen, bedroom and bathing place ;

(*c*) whether any officer of the Medical or Public Health department ever inspected these quarters and reported about their unsuitability from health-point of view ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that there is no laundry attached to that hospital and that the hospital clothing is washed and spread out for drying in the vacant ground by the side of the wards ; and